

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 18, 2008 has been carefully considered. Individual issue raised in the Office Action will be addressed next. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above claim amendments and following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 12 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (US6,404,393) in view of Gilson (US5,600,845); claims 3, 6-8, 10, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson and Gilson in view of Lazzarotto (US6,782,245); and claims 19, 20, 22-31 were found allowable.

To expedite allowance of the application, rejected independent claims 1 and 11 were amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the original claims.

In view of the above, application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael Fainberg (Reg. No. 50,441)
Thelen LLP (Customer No. 29,858)
875 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel. (212) 603-2000
Fax (212) 603-2001